

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

DO NOT
ENTER
/J. M./
/A. J. F. /Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for generating characterizing information including a plurality of descriptors for a selected block of printed material, , said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) scanning said printed material;
 - b) applying a predetermined set of algorithms for computing characterizing information;
 - c) determining estimates of robustness for each algorithm in said predetermined set of algorithms;
 - d) selecting, as a function of said estimates, a combination of descriptors generated by a corresponding combination of said algorithms as said characterizing information;
 - e) including said characterizing information into a secure indicia;
 - f) scanning said indicia and said printed block; and
 - g) determining uniqueness of said indicia using information obtained from step f.